

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /064 W

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R 260519Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4650

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SN

SUBJ: SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT COMPANY TO HAVE AIR SERVICING
MONOPOLY

1. EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY LEARNED OF GOS COMPULSORY MONOPOLY HANDLING SCHEME INVOLVING BOTH PASSENGER AND AIRCRAFT RAMP-HANDLING OF ALL AIRLINES AT PAYA LEBAR AIRPORT. WHILE PLAN IS OFFICIALLY ONLY UNDER "ACTIVE CONSIDERATION", IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE IMPLEMENTED. PLAN WOULD ALSO BE EXTENDED TO NEW CHANGI AIRPORT LATER.

2. UNDER THE PLAN, ALL ON AND OFF RAMP AIRPORT SERVICING (TECHNICAL AND PASSENGER RAMPHANDLING) WOULD BE DONE EXCLUSIVELY BY SINGAPORE AIRPORT TERMINAL SERVICES (SATS), A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF SINGAPORE AIRLINES.

3. TWENTY-FOUR CARRIERS WILL BE AFFECTED BY SATS MONOPOLY. ALL BUT TWO, SIA AND GARUDA, OBJECT TO IT (GARUDA CANNOT OBJECT BECAUSE IT ENJOYS SIMILAR MONOPOLY IN INDONESIA).

4. DUTCH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY PRINSEN CALLED ON E/C COUNSELOR FEB 25 TO INFORM EMBASSY OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER PROPOSED MONOPOLY AND TO ALSO INFORM US THAT DUTCH EMBASSY HAS SENT PROTEST NOTE TO GOS STATING THAT IN GON OPINION,
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THIS GOS-SPONSORED ACTION IS CONTRARY TO ICAO PRINCIPLES OF

FREE CHOICE FOR CARRIERS AS LAID DOWN IN ANNEX 9, RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 6.4 OF CHICAGO CONVENTION.

5. PRINSEN ASKED IF THIS EMBASSY HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY PAN AM, AND IF WE CONTEMPLATED SIMILAR ACTION. E/C COUNSELOR REPLIED WE HAD NOT, BUT THAT THIS NOT SURPRISING; IN VIEW OF ABSENCE OF US-GOS BILATERAL AGREEMENT, PAN AM IS PERHAPS RELUCTANT TO PUSH TOO HARD ON THIS. PAN AM SINGAPORE MANAGER ARTHUR WEE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HIS HEADQUARTERS FULLY INFORMED, BUT NOT SEEKING USG ASSISTANCE AT THIS STAGE. WEE FURTHER STATED THAT US NEGOTIATING TEAM HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON THIS PROBLEM DURING JANUARY BILATERAL TALKS HERE.

6. PRINSEN FELT THAT GOS WILL GO AHEAD WITH SATS MONOPOLY DESPITE PROTEST, BUT THAT NEVERTHELESS PROTEST SHOULD BE MADE "FOR THE RECORD". EMBASSY WAS NONCOMMITTAL BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO LATTER.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPARTMENT SEES NO OBJECTION, EMBASSY FEELS IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR USG TO ALSO GO ON RECORD AGAINST MONOPOLY SERVICING PLAN. PLEASE ADVISE. HOLDRIDGE

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